AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Method of processing photographs in a photographic laboratory by means of a photographic processing system, comprising the steps of:

receiving customer orders and processing information respectively assigned to said customer orders, each customer order comprising at least one photographic image[,];

controlling the processing of each customer order in accordance with an assigned processing information;

~~further comprising the steps of~~

checking each processing information to ascertain whether or not the processing information can automatically be processed by said processing system; and

identifying those customer orders which are to be processed according to a non-automatically processable processing information.

2.   (Original)   Method according to claim 1, wherein said processing information comprise instructions and said checking is performed by comparing the instructions of an order with a stored list of instructions which are automatically executable by said processing system.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

issuing a particular signal if a customer order is identified as not being automatically processable[,]:

marking ~~the~~ an identified customer order to indicate the non-automatically processability[,]; and

at least one of separating the non automatically processable customer order from the customer orders which are automatically processable~~, and/or~~ and processing the non-automatically processable customer orders with the assistance of at one operator.

4. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein in the event that a processing information comprises a number of instructions, at least one of which is not automatically processable, comprising the step of:

checking each instruction for whether the instruction may be executed automatically by said processing system without the assistance of an operator and executing at least a part of those automatically executable instructions automatically by said processing system.

5. (Original) Method according claim 4, wherein those instructions not automatically executed by the processing system arc executed on the customer order by passing the customer order to at least one processing site where the instructions necessary to completely perform the processing information arc executed by means of the assistance of at least one operator.

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 5, wherein a plurality of said processing sites with at least one operator are provided[;], and wherein said non-automatically executable instructions are analysed with regard to at least one of which of said processing sites and/or and which one of said operators is best suitable to execute a particular non-automatically executable instruction.

7. (Original) Method according to claim 5, wherein after automatic processing of the customer orders, the customer orders are checked for errors due to the processing and wherein those customer orders having errors arc conveyed to a suitable processing site assigned to the handling of errors.

8. (Original) Method according to claim 1,

wherein each customer order comprises a film unit of developed photographic film, and a print unit of prints made by printing said photographic images on photo graphic paper;

and wherein each processing information is assigned to a customer order comprising a film unit and a corresponding print unit, said corresponding print unit comprising a number of prints of photographic images of the corresponding film unit.

9. (Currently Amended)) Method according to claim 8, wherein at least one of said photographic film and/or and said prints are received in the form of a web, and wherein one of said plurality of processes performed by said processing system is that of cutting said web in sections, each section assigned to at least one photographic image and the size or format of each section being defined by the assigned order.

10.   (Original)   Method according to claim 9, wherein one of said plurality of processes per formed by the processing system is that of packing developed photographic film and prints into a package, wherein the selection of the film and the prints to he packed in the same package is defined by the assigned processing information.

11.   (Original)   Method according to claim 10, wherein one of said plurality of processes is that of adding supplements to said packages, wherein whether a supplement is to be added or not and the kind of supplement is defined by the processing information as signed to the film and prints in said package.

12. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein during the process for said customer orders in said processing system, particular match codes are assigned to [element] elements of each said customer ~~orders preferably including a support means, e.g. a pallet,~~ order to monitor the progress of said elements of said customer orders and to assign said elements to each other to complete said customer orders.

13. (Currently Amended) Processing system for processing photographs in a photographic laboratory ~~in particular for performing the method of claim 1~~, comprising:

a receiving unit for receiving customer orders and processing information respectively assigned to those customer orders, each customer order comprising at least one photographic image[,];

a control means for controlling the processing of a customer order in accordance with an assigned processing information;

~~further comprising:~~

a checking means for checking each processing information to ascertain whether or not the processing information may be automatically processed by said processing system without the assistance of an operator; and

an identifying means for identifying those customer orders which are to be processed according to a non automatically processable processing information.

14. (Currently Amended) Processing system according to claim ~~12~~ 13, comprising:

a conveying means for conveying pallets along a conveying path; and

a number of supplying means for supplying elements of a customer order to a pallet such that a pallet is supplied only with elements of one customer order[;], wherein

~~further comprising that~~

said ~~controlling~~ control means assigns each pallet supplied with elements to the processing information corresponding to the photographic unit, to which the elements of the pallet belong; ~~and~~, and wherein

said ~~controlling~~ control means ~~controlls~~ controls said conveying means such that those pallets, which are assigned to a non-automatically processable order, are separated from that portion of the conveying path which is allocated to automatic processing without the assistance of an operator.

15. (Currently Amended) Processing system according to claim ~~12~~ 13, including a photo material processing device that comprises:

cutting means for cutting a portion of web of photographic prints belonging to one photographic unit into sections of different length, said sections representing at least one of photographic images ~~and/or~~ and index prints[,];

sorting means for sorting the sections in different compartments according to their lengths, said compartments being arranged one above the other[,]; and

releasing means assigned to each compartment for releasing the sections of each compartment such that they fall due to their gravity down onto a collecting means which collects the released sections ordered according to their length,

wherein the uppermost compartment is provided for index prints which can have larger dimensions than smaller prints, so that bumping means provided for stopping said small dimension prints have to be withdrawn, such that the index print or index prints can fall ~~on to of~~ onto the collected pile of prints when said index print is released.

16. (Currently Amended) A program which, when run on a computer which is part of a processing system in a photographic laboratory, or when loaded in said computer causes or is capable of causing the computer to carry out ~~the method as claimed in claim 1~~ a method of processing photographs in a photographic laboratory by means of a photographic processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving customer orders and processing information respectively assigned to said customer orders, each customer order comprising at least one photographic image;

controlling the processing of each customer order in accordance with an assigned processing information;

checking each processing information to ascertain whether or not the processing information can automatically be processed by said processing system; and

identifying those customer orders which are to be processed according to a non-automatically processable processing information.

17.   (Currently Amended)   A computer program product comprising ~~the program claimed in claim 16~~ a program which, when run on a computer which is part of a processing system in a photographic laboratory, or when loaded in said computer causes or is capable of causing the computer to carry out a method of processing photographs in a photographic laboratory by means of a photographic processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving customer orders and processing information respectively assigned to said customer orders, each customer order comprising at least one photographic image;

controlling the processing of each customer order in accordance with an assigned processing information;

checking each processing information to ascertain whether or not the processing information can automatically be processed by said processing system; and

identifying those customer orders which are to be processed according to a non-automatically processable processing information.